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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a bona fide response to all outstanding objections and rejections.

Claims 3-5 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, Applicants have amended the claims in a manner that Applicants believe overcomes each of the Examiner's concerns. Thus, the parentheses have been removed from claims 3-5. The narrow range from claims 7 and 12 have been removed and made the subject matter of new claims 16 and 17, respectively. Minor editorial changes have been made in claims 13-15. Applicants do not believe that any of the changes introduce new matter. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are definite. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-6 and 8-15 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Larson, US 5,540,876. In response, Applicants would remind the Examiner that anticipation requires that each and every element as set forth in the claim must be found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference, and, further, if the Examiner relies on a theory of inherency as to any particular element, then the extrinsic evidence must make clear that such element is *necessarily* present in the thing described in the reference, and the presence of such element therein would be so recognized by persons skilled in the art. *In re Robertson*, 49

USPQ2d 1949, 1950-51 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Further, inherency is not established by probabilities or possibilities, and the mere fact that a property may result from a given circumstances is not sufficient; instead it must be shown that such property *necessarily* inheres in the thing described in the reference. *Id.* Applicants refer the Examiner to fifth paragraph on page 5 and the second paragraph on page 6 of the instant specification, wherein Larson is discussed. Simply put, Larson's material is not suitable as an elastomeric impression material.

Further, other than claim 7, which is indicated as being allowable, the Examiner has not dealt with the limitations of the dependent claims. Thus, the Examiner has not shown where in Larson there is a teaching or suggestion of a two-component compression material, which are cross-linked into an *elastomer* material, as claimed in instant claim 2; Larson's material is *thermoplastic* and is shown in Larson's examples to have no elasticity when irradiated. The Examiner also has not shown Larson's materials to comprise the specific materials required by instant claims 3-6; or the specific process requirements of claims 8-15.

Respectfully, a case of anticipation must be made out as to all claims. The Examiner states that Larson clearly anticipates the instant claims. However, such anticipation is not clear in view of the differences pointed out above and already mentioned.

Along the foregoing lines, Applicants have added new claim 18, which is supported by the second paragraph on page 8 of the instant specification. Applicants do not believe claim 18 introduces any new matter. As noted above, Larson's impression materials subjected to irradiation are thermoplastic, not elastomeric, and certainly not crosslinking elastomeric impression materials as required by claim 18.

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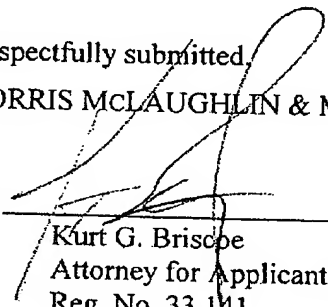
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn as to all claims. An early notice that the rejection has been reconsidered and withdrawn is earnestly solicited.

Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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By


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